

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the non-final Official Action of November 13, 2008. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1 and 2 being independent.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (US 20030088576) in view of Numata et al. (US 20030041304), further in view of Vagnzzi (US 20030135495). The rejection is respectfully traversed for reasons set forth below.

1. Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a file management device for managing, with an index file recorded in a recording medium, files recorded in the recording medium, wherein the index file is made up of entries for extracted text which is extracted from files recorded in the recording medium, entries for thumbnail images extracted from the files recorded in the recording medium, entries for property information including hierarchy management information which expresses a hierarchical structure of the files and a folder recorded on the recording medium, registration information which indicates files belonging to the folder by pointing to entries, and virtual folder information that indicates whether or not the folder is a virtual folder; wherein the file management device retrieves the entries of the index file according to conditions for retrieval set by a user to select a file registered in the index file, and registers, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result as to the retrieved file, along with the conditions for retrieval, in the index file; and wherein, when the entry for the retrieval result is registered, information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result is set in the index file, wherein the hierarchy management information is set so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which

retrieval results are collected, and the registration information is set to point to an entry of the retrieved file.

Examiner alleges that “wherein the file management device retrieves ... and registers, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result as to the selected file, in the index file, along with the conditions for retrieval (abstract; [0062]).

Hattori arguably teaches the data space retrieval section retrieves data and definition data (abstract; [0062]). However, first of all, Hattori fails to disclose, teach or suggest “the file management device ... registers ... a retrieval result as to the retrieved file ... in the index file.”

For example, paragraph [0076] of Hattori reads:

The data space retrieval section 18 is called by the total control section 23 to retrieve data from the local DB 16 through the data space management section 14. More specifically, a data space, data object, or data definition object matching retrieved data (e.g., identification data represented by, e.g., a character string to identify a data space, data object, or data definition object) input by the user is retrieved.

Thus, although Hattori arguably teaches that identification data represented by, e.g., a character string to identify a data space, data object, or data definition object, is retrieved, it fails to disclose, teach or suggest that “the file management device ... registers ... a retrieval result ... in the index file.”

Secondly, although Hattori arguably teaches “the generated virtual instance” (paragraph [0060] of Hattori), Hattori fails to disclose, teach or suggest the retrieval result is registered as an entry for the virtual folder in the index file.” That is, in the system disclosed in Hattori, the retrieval result is not registered in the index file, nor does it register the retrieval result, as an entry for the virtual folder in the index file.

Thirdly, although Hattori arguably teaches that data is retrieved, it fails to teach that a retrieval result as to the retrieved file is registered along with the search criteria, that is, the conditions for retrieval. Thus, Hattori fails to teach “the file management device ... registers ... a retrieval result as to the retrieved file, along with the conditions for retrieval, in the index file.”

Thus, it seems that the Office Action ignores languages of claim 1 since the applied art including Hattori, Numata and Vagnzzi fail to teach these features. If the Examiner is taking Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

Examiner alleges that “wherein, when the entry for the retrieval result is registered, information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result is set in the index file ([0013]; [0044]-[0046]; [0224]).

Hattori arguably teaches metaindex, metaindex table, an attribute definition table and an indirect data index ([0013]; [0044]-[0046]; [0224]), which are not the retrieval result obtained as a result of retrieval. As discussed above in Hattori, the retrieval result is not registered, so that entry for the retrieval result is not registered in the index file. In addition, In the applied art, information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result is not set in the index file.

Thus, the applied art including Hattori, Numata and Vagnzzi fails to “when the entry for the retrieval result is registered, information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result is set in the index file.”

Examiner alleges that “wherein Numata, on the other hand, discloses, “wherein the layer information is set so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected, and the registration information is set to point entries of the selected file” (Numata: [0043]).

Numata arguably teaches layer information ([0043]), and teaches that “the search unit 4 searches the relational database 13 for the element information and structural information corresponding to the designated editing unit ID and retrieves the information of interest” (paragraph 0084).

Paragraph [0084] of Numata reads:

How a structured document is typically edited will now be described. Editing work is carried out in units of partial structures. Illustratively, an editing unit ID is designated for the search unit 4. In turn, the search unit 4 searches the relational database 13 for the element information and structural information corresponding to the designated editing unit ID and retrieves the information of interest. The retrieved information is converted illustratively to XML format before being offered to a worker for editing. The worker edits the corresponding partial structure, and inputs the edited partial structure again to the file management unit 2.

Thus, in the system disclosed in Numata, the search unit 4 searches the relational database 13 based on the designated editing ID. However, the search term such as the “designated editing ID” is not registered. Nor is retrieval results collected.

Accordingly, Numata fails to disclose, teach or suggest “a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected.”

Thus, the applied art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that “the file management device retrieves the entries of the index file according to conditions for retrieval set by a user to select a file registered in the index file, and registers, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result as to the

retrieved file, along with the conditions for retrieval, in the index file.” Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

If allowance of the claim is not forthcoming, Applicants request to show what elements and functions thereof disclosed in the applied art correspond to the limitation of claim 1, that is, “the file management device retrieves the entries of the index file according to conditions for retrieval set by a user to select a file registered in the index file, and registers, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result as to the retrieved file, along with the conditions for retrieval, in the index file”.

2. Claim 2

Claim 2 is directed to a file managing method of managing files recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium, wherein the index file is made up of entries for extracted text which is extracted from files recorded in the recording medium, entries for property information including hierarchy management information which expresses a hierarchical structure of the files and a folder recorded on the recording medium, registration information which indicates files belonging to the folder by pointing to entries, and virtual folder information that indicates whether or not the folder is a virtual folder; and said method comprising: a step of retrieving the entries of the index file according to retrieval conditions set by a user to select a file registered in the index file; a step of registering, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result about the retrieved file in the index file, along with the conditions for retrieval; a step of setting information indicating that the entry is for the retrieval result in the index file, and a step of setting the hierarchy management so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected; and a step of setting the registration information to point to an entry of the retrieved file.

Similarly to claim 1, the applied art fails to disclose, teach or suggest that “a step of registering, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result about the retrieved file in the index file, along with the conditions for retrieval.”

Claim 2 is patentable over the applied art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

3. Claims 3

Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 3 depends on claim 2, it is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 2 is allowable and it is further allowable by reason of the additional limitations set forth therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

4. Claims 6-9

Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 6-9 depend on claim 1, they are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable and they are further allowable by reason of the additional limitations set forth therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 6-9 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the following arguments, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action.

However, Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

Further, for any instances in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicants expressly do not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

Application No. 10/572,808
Amendment dated January 23, 2009
Reply to Office Action of November 13, 2008

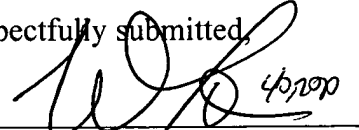
Docket No.: SON-3119

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-3119 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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